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13 Defendant SHAKEY'S PIZZA ASIA
14 VENTURES, INC. and Third Party Defendants
15 CINCO CORPORATION, PC INTERNATIONAL
16 PTE LTD., and SPAVI INTERNATIONAL USA, INC.

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Third Party Plaintiffs PCJV USA, LLC, PCI
TRADING LLC, POTATO CORNER, LA
GROUP, LLC, GK CAPITAL GROUP, LLC,
NKM CAPITAL GROUP, LLC and GUY
KOREN, and Defendants J & K AMERICANA,
LLC, J&K LAKEWOOD, LLC, J&K
OAKRIDGE, LLC, J&K VALLEY FAIR, LLC, J
& K ONTARIO, LLC, J&K PC TRUCKS, LLC,
HLK MILPITAS, LLC, and GK CERRITOS, LLC

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SHAKY'S PIZZA ASIA VENTURES,
INC, a Philippines corporation,

Plaintiff,

vs.

PCJV USA, LLC, a Delaware limited
liability company; PCI TRADING , LLC, a
Delaware limited liability company; GUY

Case No. 2:24-CV-04546-SB(AGRx)

Hon. Stanley Blumenfeld, Jr.

**JOINT REPORT AND REQUEST
FOR THE COURT'S GUIDANCE
RE: SPECIAL MASTER**

Complaint Filed: May 31, 2024
Trial Date: TBD

1 KOREN, an individual; POTATO CORNER
2 LA GROUP, LLC, a California limited
3 liability company; NKM CAPITAL GROUP,
4 LLC, a California limited liability company;
5 J & K AMERICANA, LLC, a California
6 limited liability company; J&K
7 LAKEWOOD, LLC, a California limited
8 liability company; J&K VALLEY FAIR,
9 LLC, a California limited liability company;
10 J & K ONTARIO, LLC, a California limited
11 liability company; HLK MILPITAS, LLC, a
12 California, limited liability company; GK
13 CERRITOS, LLC, a California, limited
14 liability company; J&K PC TRUCKS, LLC,
15 a California limited liability company; and,
16 GK CAPITAL GROUP, LLC, a California
17 limited liability company and DOES 1
18 through 100, inclusive,

19
20 Defendants.

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22 PCJV USA, LLC, a Delaware limited
23 liability company; PCI TRADING LLC, a
24 Delaware limited liability company;
25 POTATO CORNER LA GROUP LLC, a
26 California limited liability company; GK
27 CAPITAL GROUP, LLC, a California
28 limited liability company; NKM CAPITAL
GROUP LLC, a California limited liability
company; and GUY KOREN, an individual,

Counter-Claimants,

v.

SHAKEY'S PIZZA ASIA VENTURES,
INC, a Philippines corporation,

Counter Defendant.

PCJV USA, LLC, a Delaware limited
liability company; PCI TRADING LLC, a
Delaware limited liability company;
POTATO CORNER LA GROUP LLC, a
California limited liability company; GK
CAPITAL GROUP, LLC, a California
limited liability company; NKM CAPITAL
GROUP LLC, a California limited liability
company; and GUY KOREN, an individual,

Third Party Plaintiffs,

v.

PC INTERNATIONAL PTE LTD., a
Singapore business entity; SPAVI
INTERNATIONAL USA, INC., a California
corporation; CINCO CORPORATION, a
Philippines corporation; and ROES 1 through
10, inclusive,

Third Party Defendants.

JOINT REPORT/REQUEST RE: SPECIAL MASTER

The Court appointed the Honorable Richard A. Stone (Ret.) as special master to investigate certain non-compliance issues and to make recommendations as to any appropriate sanctions and/or referrals. *See* Dkt. Nos. 213, 251. Prior to the entry of Dkt. No. 251, the parties made submissions at Dkt. Nos. 240–242 and 248–249 in response to Orders to Show Cause.¹ Following the entry of Dkt. No. 251, the Court issued additional orders relating to Plaintiff’s counsel’s repeated violations. *See, e.g.,* Dkt. Nos. 313, 316, 319.

On September 25, 2025, after acknowledging receipt of the special master orders, Judge Stone’s case manager proposed an initial telephonic conference for October 6, 7, 8, or 9. Defendants’ counsel, Mr. Beral, responded the same day (September 25) that October 7 or 9 would work. On October 2, Plaintiff’s counsel, Mr. Murphy, responded that he would make any of the proposed dates work. By that time, however, all proposed dates—except October 8—were no longer available, and the conference was ultimately scheduled for the morning of October 16.

On October 10, Mr. Shaeffer informed Mr. Beral that Mr. Murphy was on a leave of absence from Fox Rothschild LLP and would no longer be litigating this action for the next 4-5 months at least. On October 13, Mr. Shaeffer became lead trial counsel for Plaintiff. Dkt. No. 323. Messrs. Shaeffer and Beral, along with Ms. Tirtasaputra of Fox Rothschild LLP, have been litigating another complex matter (coincidentally before Judge Stone acting as judicial referee) for approximately five years; that other action is presently set for a November 13 global mediation involving parties and counsel from multiple states.

¹ At Dkt. No. 251, the Court remarked that “[t]he evidence produced by Defendants is substantial,” and at footnote 1 of that Order (on page 2), the Court suggested that Judge Stone consider the credibility of various assertions made by Plaintiff’s counsel (Mr. Murphy) in his declaration at Dkt. 242 alongside “Plaintiff’s long history of waiting until the last minute and missing deadlines even when nothing was required from Defendants” (citing various examples at Dkt. Nos. 118, 155, 187, and 208).

1 This morning, counsel appeared before Judge Stone to advise him of Mr.
2 Murphy's leave and to discuss related matters. Counsel had a frank, professional
3 conversation about the case, its merits, the objective evidence, and recent filings.
4 Judge Stone concluded that he cannot complete his assignment without the ability to
5 hear from Mr. Murphy and requested that the parties seek clarification from the
6 Court regarding how the special master should proceed under these circumstances.

7 Defendants and their counsel respectfully request that the Court consider
8 dissolving the Orders to Show Cause and the referral orders to the special master as
9 to Defendants and their counsel or, in the alternative, authorizing Judge Stone to
10 proceed with the assignment, make a recommendation as to Defendants and their
11 counsel and withhold any recommendation as to Plaintiffs and their counsel pending
12 Mr. Murphy's leave of absence. Mr. Shaeffer does not have sufficient information
13 about this issue to take any position at this time with respect to Defendants' request.

14 In light of the foregoing, the undersigned parties and their counsel, per the
15 request and direction of Judge Stone, respectfully request the Court's guidance on
16 how the special master should proceed.²

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27 ² Messrs. Shaeffer and Beral have worked diligently and professionally on other
28 matters and foresee no further issues in this case. During their October 10 call, Mr.
Shaeffer provided assurances that with his substitution as lead counsel, there will be
no further missed deadlines or noncompliance with court orders.

1 DATED: October 16, 2025 **FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP**

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3 By: */s/ John Shaeffer*

4 John Shaeffer
5 Matthew Follett
6 Attorneys for Plaintiff and Counterclaim
7 Defendant SHAKEY'S PIZZA ASIA
8 VENTURES, INC. and Third Party
9 Defendants CINCO CORPORATION, PC
10 INTERNATIONAL PTE LTD., and SPAVI
11 INTERNATIONAL USA, INC.

12 DATED: October 16, 2025 **BLANK ROME LLP**

13
14 By: */s/ Arash Beral*

15 Todd M. Malynn
16 Arash Beral
17 Jamison T. Gilmore
18 Attorneys for Defendants, Counterclaimants,
19 and Third Party Plaintiffs PCJV USA, LLC,
20 PCI TRADING LLC, POTATO CORNER,
21 LA GROUP, LLC, GK CAPITAL GROUP,
22 LLC, NKM CAPITAL GROUP, LLC and
23 GUY KOREN, and Defendants J & K
24 AMERICANA, LLC, J&K LAKEWOOD,
25 LLC, J&K OAKRIDGE, LLC, J&K
26 VALLEY FAIR, LLC, J & K ONTARIO,
27 LLC, J&K PC TRUCKS, LLC, HLK
28 MILPITAS, LLC, and GK CERRITOS, LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that on October 16, 2025, the foregoing document was electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court for the United States District Court, Central District of California, using the Court's Electronic Case Filing (ECF) system. I further certify that all participants in the case are registered CM/ECF users and that service will be accomplished by the CM/ECF system.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed on October 16, 2025.

By: /s/AJ Cruickshank